

BARBERSHOP HARMONY NEW ZEALAND
Contest Rules – Updated July 2025

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FOREWORD

These rules apply to all quartet and chorus contests at the Regional and National levels in Barbershop Harmony New Zealand (BHNZ). These rules are BHNZ specific and supplement the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) Contest Rules under which BHNZ contests are conducted. The BHS Contest Rules should be consulted in case of issues or concerns not addressed within.

Any requests for exception to any of the following rules on eligibility must be made to the BHNZ Contest and Judging Committee (C & J) through its Chairperson. The final decision will be agreed by the board of BHNZ and relayed back to the initiator through the Chairperson of the BHNZ Contest and Judging Committee.

The National Quartet competitions shall be held in conjunction with the BHNZ National Convention and shall consist of up to four separate contest divisions:

- a. Open Quartet
- b. Senior Quartet
- c. Novice Quartet
- d. International Preliminary Contest

The National Chorus competitions shall be held in Conjunction with the BHNZ National Convention and consist of up to four separate contest divisions:

- a. Open Chorus
- b. Senior Chorus
- c. Small Chapter Chorus
- d. International Preliminary Contest

All questions regarding eligibility or qualification for the BHS International Competitions should be referred to the current Alliance Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between BHNZ and BHS.

ARTICLE I: ELIGIBILITY

A. Quartets

1. Membership and Quartet Registration Requirements

a. BHNZ and Chapter:

All members of competing quartets, must be members in good standing of BHNZ as defined in Article 14 of the BHNZ Constitutional Rules (rev. 2025)-

b. Quartet Registration:

To be eligible for competition, a quartet must be registered with the BHNZ. A quartet whose registration is not current and up to date will be considered ineligible for competition.

2. Convention Registration

Each competing quartet member shall hold a registration for the convention at which the competition is held.

3. Quartet Contest Divisions

Any quartet that has met the eligibility requirements (See article II B. 1. below) is eligible to compete in one or more of the BHNZ Quartet Contests as listed below.

a. Open Quartet

Any quartet regardless of classification.

b. Senior Quartet

Any quartet whose members are aged 55 or older and the sum of whose ages is equal to or exceeds 240 years as of the day of the BHNZ Seniors Quartet contest.

c. Novice Quartet

Any quartet in which at least three members have not previously sung in a National Quartet competition of any Barbershop Harmony organisation.

d. International Preliminary

Any quartet which has qualified for the BHNZ National Quartet Competition is eligible to compete in the International Preliminary.

e. Visitor Quartets

a. Request:

Under normal circumstances, quartets are expected to compete in their home associations. In exceptional

circumstances, a quartet from another association may request to perform for score, experience and/or evaluation in a BHNZ competition.

b. Action:

Such requests by quartets to perform in an association other than their own must have unanimous approval by the BHNZ Contest & Judging Chairperson and President and the home association's representative for Contest and Judging and President.

c. Deadline:

This request, including an indication of scoring level, must be submitted at least 60 days prior to the contest for which entry is desired.

d. A Visitor Quartet must meet the contest eligibility requirements of their own organisation.

e. A Visitor Quartet is not eligible to compete for any BHNZ award.

4. Competing in Multiple Quartets

In the International Preliminary contest, a member may compete with only one quartet, regardless of the number of quartets or organisations to which they belong. However, a member may compete in multiple quartets in any other BHNZ quartet contest. It should be noted, however, that no two quartets competing in the same Contest Division may have more than two members in common, regardless of the parts being sung.

5. Current BHNZ Champions

The current BHNZ National Open Quartet Champion must stand down for a year and so is not eligible to compete for the next year's BHNZ Quartet Championship in any Division. However, should the current Open Champion wish to attempt to qualify for the BHS International Quartet Contest, they may enter the International Preliminary Contest.

B. Choruses

1. Membership Requirements

All members of competing choruses, including directors, must be members in good standing of the BHNZ and a member of each chapter they choose to represent in competition. Chapters represented in BHNZ chorus contests must be chapters in good standing of BHNZ as defined in the BHNZ Constitutional Rules (rev. 2025).

2. Chorus Champion Stand Down Year

The current BHNZ National Open Chorus Champion must stand down for a year and so is not eligible to compete for the next year's BHNZ Chorus Championship in any Division. However, they may perform in the competition for Evaluation Only, preferably immediately following the last official contestant as part of their "swan song" performance. Choruses performing for Evaluation Only will receive a score but not be ranked as part of the BHNZ competition.

3. Convention Registration

Every competing (singing on stage) member of a chorus, including the director, shall hold a registration for the convention at which the competition is held.

4. Chorus Contest Divisions

Any chorus that has met the eligibility requirements (See article II C. 1. below) is eligible to compete in one or more of the BHNZ Chorus Contests as listed below.

a. Open Chorus

Any chorus regardless of classification.

b. Senior Chorus

Any chorus where at least 80% of the performers on stage are aged 55 or older as of the day of the BHNZ Seniors Chorus contest.

c. Small Chapter Chorus

Any chorus representing a Chapter that has no more than 25 members regardless of classification.

d. Visitor Chorus

a. Request:

Under normal circumstances, choruses are expected to compete in their home associations. In exceptional circumstances, a chorus from another association may request to perform for score, experience and/or evaluation in a BHNZ Competition. Should the request be made by a BHS chorus for the purpose of consideration for the BHS International Chorus Contest, then BHS rules apply.

b. Action:

Such requests by choruses to compete in an association other than their own must be unanimously approved by the BHNZ C&J Chairperson and President, and the home

association's representative for contest and judging and President.

c. Deadline:

The request shall be received at least 60 days prior to the contest for which entry is desired.

d. A Visitor Chorus is not eligible to compete for any BHNZ awards.

5. Multiple Choruses, One Chapter.

Chapters may enter more than one chorus in any BHNZ Chorus Contest. However, to maintain fairness, one chorus may not be comprised of more than 75% of the same members on stage as another chorus from the same chapter competing in the same contest. In that case, the percentage threshold is calculated against the smaller chorus.

6. Minimum Size.

A chorus shall contain a minimum of 9 (nine) persons, not including the director.

7. Competing in Multiple Choruses

A member may participate, either as director or singer, with more than one chorus in any contest, providing the membership requirements in Article I.B.1 above are met.

8. Combining Choruses

a. If two choruses choose to combine for the purposes of competition, they must meet the eligibility requirements (See Article I. B.1) and perform as members of one of the existing chapters only.

b. Where a chapter is unable to meet the requirements to enter the chorus competition (does not meet minimum number of members or parts required) they may combine with another chapter providing the eligibility requirements are met (See Article I. B.1). However, on written application, the requirement for Dual Membership may be waived at the discretion of the BHNZ Board.

C. Violations of Article I

1. Reporting Violation

Suspected violations of Article I shall be reported to the BHNZ C&J Chairperson within 10 days after discovery of the suspected violation and, in any event, no later than 30 days after the competition conclusion. All such reports must be signed and should

include all available documentation in order to assist with the investigation and decision.

2. Format

All notices and rulings with respect to Article I violations must be in writing (which may include electronic transmissions) and shall be deemed to have been given

(a) upon personal delivery, or

(b) if given by electronic transmission, when received and acknowledged. The party receiving an electronic notice or ruling shall immediately acknowledge receipt.

3. Effect of Violation

Quartets and choruses found in violation of Article I.A or Article I.B, respectively, are ineligible and will not be included in the final official scoring summary for that contest. A revised scoring summary will be published if necessary.

ARTICLE II: CONTEST ENTRY PROCEDURES

A. BHNZ Quartet and Chorus Contests and BHNZ International Preliminary Contest

1. Contest Entry

Contest Entry Forms (physical or electronic) will be made available to all eligible contestants by the C&J Committee at least 45 days prior to the Regional Qualification Contests and 90 days prior to BHNZ National Contests. This applies to Video Submissions as well as they are considered part of the Regional Qualification Contests.

2. Deadline

Completed contest entry forms must be received by the C&J Chairperson no later than 15 days prior to Regional Qualification Contests and 60 days prior to the BHNZ National Contests. However, the C&J Committee may, at their discretion, accept late entries with good cause no later than 7 days prior to Regional Contests and 15 days prior to the BHNZ National Contests.

B. BHNZ Quartet Contests

1. Contestant Qualification

a. Regional Qualification

Quartets wishing to qualify for BHNZ National Competition may do so by competing in a Regional Qualification Contest. Regional Contests are to be judged by a single panel of

Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges (AGBJ) or Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) certified judges or a mixture of both BHS and AGBJ certified judges.

b. Video Assessment

If a quartet is unable to participate in Regional Qualification as described in Article II.B.1.a above, a video recording may be submitted for assessment. Video submissions shall commence on 1 March and will end at midnight of the day following the last Regional Qualification. Videos are to be submitted in accordance with the Guidelines for Video Assessment attached to these rules. (See Appendix A – Video Qualification attached) The video will be assessed by a panel of AGBJ certified judges. Under no circumstance shall a quartet which competed in a Regional Qualification Contest and failed to qualify be permitted to attempt to qualify under this clause in the same year. Quartets achieving the qualifying score will be eligible to enter the National Competition and all quartets will be notified of their scores as in other Regional Contests.

c. Qualifying Score

In all circumstances, to be eligible to compete in the BHNZ National Quartet Competitions, all quartets must have earned a minimum average score in a Regional Contest or Video Assessment. The minimum score is determined by the BHNZ Board upon recommendation by the C&J Committee. That score is currently an average of 60 or higher.

d. Should a minimum of two quartets of any Contest Division not qualify to compete at the National Contest, there will be no National Contest in that Division and no National Champion will be declared for that division.

2. Personnel Change in Qualifying Quartets

a. After qualifying for the BHNZ National Competition as in Article II. B.1 above, a quartet may replace up to one member and still be eligible to compete at the national competition. If two or more personnel changes should occur in a qualifying quartet between qualifying and the national competition, that quartet becomes ineligible to compete. BHNZ must be notified of the change in personnel so the Quartet Register can be updated.

C. BHNZ National Chorus Contests

1. Contest Qualification

Each chapter in good standing with the BHNZ is invited to send one or more representative chorus(es) to the BHNZ National Chorus contest provided eligibility requirements are met. (See Article I. B. above). There are no current regional qualification or minimum score requirements for choruses.

D. Copyright Clearance

1. Observance of Copyright Laws

All contestants are required to observe the copyright laws in the acquisition, arranging and learning of songs and arrangements. Any contestant intending to compete at any BHS International competition will be required to comply with BHS Copyright rules (See Article II. G. in the BHS Contest Rules).

ARTICLE III: SCORING CATEGORIES

Each scoring judge awards a score from 1 to 100 for each song. All contestants will be judged in the three scoring categories:

A. Musicality

The Musicality judge evaluates the song and arrangement, as performed. The judge adjudicates the musical elements in the performance: melody, harmony, range and tessitura, tempo and rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments. The judge judges how well the musical elements of the performance establish a theme and the degree to which the performance demonstrates an artistic sensitivity to that theme. The judge adjudicates the degree to which the musical elements of the song and arrangement display the hallmarks of the barbershop style:

B. Performance

The Performance judge evaluates how effectively a performer brings the song to life; that is, the believability of the theme in its musical and visual setting. The judge responds to both the vocal and visual aspects of the performance, but the judge principally evaluates the interaction of those aspects as they work together to create the image of the song. The judge adjudicates the quality and appropriateness of the overall effect. The Performance judge evaluates everything about the performance that contributes to emotional impact upon the audience.

C. Singing

The Singing judge evaluates the degree to which the performer achieves artistic singing in the barbershop style. Artistic singing is accomplished through precise intonation, a high degree of vocal skill and appropriate vocal expression, and a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble. Mastering these elements creates a fullness and expansion of sound, and when combined with expressive vocal skills will convey a feeling of genuine emotion to support the message of the song.

ARTICLE IV: CONTEST JUDGES

A. Certification and Panel Requirements

Judges (scoring judges and administration judges) are certified by the Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges, through its Chairperson, in their respective categories in accordance with their qualifications to judge one of the three scoring categories or as an administration judge. It is the duty of the BHNZ Contest and Judging Committee, through its Chairperson, to provide an official register of AGBJ certified and candidate judges, both in scoring and administration.

1. For BHNZ Regional Contests, a single panel of AGBJ Certified Judges shall be seated. The panel will include an administration judge and one scoring judge from each category (Musicality, Singing and Performance). For clarity, a BHS certified judge is eligible to score a BHNZ Regional Contest, but it is not envisaged that this would occur.
2. For BHNZ National Competitions, at least a double panel of AGBJ and BHS Certified Judges (Administration, Musicality, Singing and Performance) will be seated. If at least one scoring judge per category is BHS certified, groups automatically qualify for the international competition provided they achieve the minimum score required (as set by the BHS Contest and Judging Committee).

B. Appointment of Judging Panels

The appointment of judging panels to all BHNZ Contests will be actioned through the BHNZ Contest and Judging Committee in accordance with AGBJ (and, if applicable, BHS) procedures for requesting panels. Opportunity should be made available for AGBJ Judge Trainees and Candidates to practice score whenever possible.

ARTICLE V: TYPE OF CONTEST

A. All Contests

1. Sessions

No single contest session should be longer than 25 contestants for quartets or 15 contestants for choruses. In unusual circumstances, an exception to this rule may be made by the BHNZ C & J Chairperson.

2. Song Repetition

a. Substantial Part Repeated: Within all rounds of a specific contest, a contestant may not repeat a song or a substantial part of any song. In the context of these rules, the term “song” may refer to a single song or a medley in which major portions of two or more songs are used. A parody of a song previously sung would be considered repeating a song.

b. Recommendation by Musicality Judge(s): A Musicality judge shall recommend forfeiture to the Administration judge if a contestant repeats a song or a substantial portion from one of its songs in another song. If there are two or more Musicality judges, the decision to forfeit must be unanimous.

c. Recommendation Unanimous: When the decision to forfeit is unanimous, the Administration Judge shall record as zero the contestant’s entire score in all categories for the repeated rendition of the song(s).

d. Recommendation Not Unanimous: When the decision to forfeit is not unanimous, the score(s) for the recommending judge(s) shall be recorded as zero.

B. Regional Qualifying Contests

1. Number of Songs Required

Contestants will be judged on two different songs.

2. Results

The highest scoring quartet in each Regional Contest Division will be declared the Regional Champion provided there were at least two competitors in the Contest Division. Quartets achieving the qualifying score and thereby qualifying for entry into the BHNZ National Contests will be announced.

C. National Open and International Preliminary Quartet Contests

1. Number of Songs Required

Contestants will be judged on four different songs in two appearances (semi-finals and finals).

2. Semi-Finals Round and Number in Finals

a. The semi-finals is an elimination round to reduce the number of quartets competing in the second or final round to no more than ten.

3. Ranking and Awards

a. Quartets in the final round will be ranked by combining the scores from the semi-final and final rounds. The highest scoring Quartet will be declared the BHNZ National Open Quartet Champion and will also be announced as the BHS International qualifier in accordance with the BHS/BHNZ Memorandum of Understanding.

b. Medals will be presented to the top five quartets scoring over 70 in the Open Contest - Gold, Silver and 3 Bronze to 1st through 5th place in that order.

c. Additional quartets can automatically qualify for the BHS international quartet competition if the judging panel is suitably staffed as per article IV. A. 2 (see above).

D. National Senior and Novice Quartet Contests

1. Number of Songs Required

Contestants for the senior contest will be judged on two different songs in one appearance (semi-final round). For the novice quartet contest, groups will be judged on the number of songs they perform across two rounds with a minimum of one round in the semi-finals as well as the finals round if applicable.

2. Ranking and Awards

a. Awards shall be presented to the top three quartets in the Senior Quartet contest.

b. Senior Quartet

(1) The highest scoring senior quartet in the semi-final round shall be declared the BHNZ National Senior Quartet Champion.

(2) Special recognition shall be given to the competing quartet with the greatest number of cumulative years of age. Special recognition shall be given to the oldest individual participant.

(3) The highest scoring BHNZ Senior Quartet automatically qualifies to compete in the following BHS International Seniors Quartet Contest in conjunction with the BHS Mid-Winter Convention. Should that quartet be unable to attend, the next best representative may be appointed in accordance with the current BHNZ/BHS MoU. Additional Senior Quartets wishing to be considered for the BHS International Senior Quartet Contest may submit a performance video for evaluations by the BHS through the BHNZ C&J Chairperson. Any representative must meet the minimum score currently set at 61%.

c. Novice Quartet

The highest scoring quartet overall who meets the eligibility requirements for a Novice Quartet (see Article I. A. 3. above) will be presented with the BHNZ Novice Quartet award.

d. Iraia Te Whaiti Award (Audience Favourite - Quartet)

(1) The Iraia Te Whaiti Award will be determined by public vote.

(2) Voting will take place based on the semi-final round only.

(3) Voting papers will be distributed and collected by an appointed committee organised by the current BHNZ Quartet Champion.

(4) Verified results are to be given to the Administration judge for inclusion in the presentation ceremony.

(5) The quartet gaining the most votes will hold the trophy until the next BHNZ National Competition.

e. Harper Cup (Audience Favourite - Chorus)

(1) The Harper Cup Award will be determined by public vote.

(2) Voting will take place based on the single round of chorus competition only.

(3) Voting papers will be distributed and collected by an appointed committee organised by the current BHNZ Quartet Champion.

(4) Verified results are to be given to the Administration judge for inclusion in the presentation ceremony.

(5) The chorus gaining the most votes will hold the trophy until the next BHNZ National Competition.

f. John Buckley Award (Most Improved Quartet)

(1) The John Buckley Award will be presented to the quartet whose average score in the semi-final round of the BHNZ National Quartet Contest shows the greatest improvement from the semi-final round of the previous BHNZ National Quartet Contest.

(2) Quartets that did not compete in the previous year's contest are not eligible for this award. Additionally, a quartet must be comprised of the same four members as the previous year's contest to be eligible for this award.

(3) In case of a tie, the tie shall be broken in accordance with Article VII C of these rules. If the tie still stands, duplicate awards will be given.

(4) If no quartet improves from the previous BHNZ Quartet Contest, the John Buckley Award will not be presented.

E. BHNZ National Open, Senior and Small Chorus Divisions

1. Number of Songs Required

Choruses are judged on two different songs in one appearance.

2. Ranking and Awards

a. Open Division

(1) The highest scoring chorus will be declared the BHNZ National Open Chorus champion and be awarded the BHNZ Champion Open Chorus Trophy.

(2) Medals will be presented to the individual chorus members, the Musical Director plus one coach of each of the top three choruses, provided they attain the minimum standard average score set by the BHNZ Board in consultation with the BHNZ C & J Committee. The current minimum average score is 70%.

(3) The Open Champion chorus will be eligible to petition through the BHNZ C&J Chairperson for an invitation to participate in the BHS International Chorus Contest. Additional choruses can automatically qualify for the BHS international chorus competition if the judging panel is suitably staffed as per article IV. A. 2 (see above).

b. Senior Chorus Division

(1) The highest scoring Senior Chorus (See Article I. B. 4 for eligibility) will be declared the Senior Chorus Champion.

(2) Medals will be awarded to the top three Senior Choruses.

c. Small Chapter Chorus Division

(1) The highest scoring Small Chapter Chorus (See Article I. B. 4 for eligibility) will be awarded the Manawatunes Trophy for the Champion Small Chapter Chorus.

(2) Medals will be awarded to the top three Small Chapter Choruses.

d. Most Improved Chorus

(1) The Most Improved Chorus Plaque will be presented to the chorus whose average score shows the greatest improvement from the previous BHNZ Chorus Contest.

(2) Choruses that did not compete in the previous year's contest are not eligible for this award.

(3) If two or more choruses tie for this award, each chorus will receive a certificate and will share the Most Improved Chorus Plaque for the year.

(4) If no chorus improves from the previous BHNZ Chorus Contest, the Most Improved Chorus Plaque will not be presented.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICIAL RESULTS

A. Official Scoring Summary

1. Contents

An official scoring summary will show the contest date and location, the scores for each song in each division for each eligible contestant,

the total score for each eligible contestant, the names of the songs, and the names of the official panel members.

2. BHNZ Contests

For all BHNZ Contests an official scoring summary will be published by the Administration judge immediately following the announcement of winners and/or qualifiers. A scoring summary for eliminated quartets may be published by the Administration judge following the conclusion of the elimination round.

ARTICLE VII: RANKING OF CONTESTANTS

A. Ranking

Contestants will be ranked in accordance with the cumulative total scores of points awarded by the judging panel.

B. Scores

1. Reporting After Performance

The judges will report their scores to the Administration judge immediately following each contestant's performance.

2. Statistical Variances

During each contest round the Administration Judge will notify each category if any statistical variances exist (where one score is statistically higher or lower than the rest of the panel for a song). The judges in that category will review their notes and all scores provided by the panel for either song in the performance. At that time, the judges in that category can change their scores for either song or leave them stand. The Administration Judge will make any changes indicated and thereafter the scores are official. (See Position Paper IX. Statistical Variances in the BHS Contest and Judging Handbook for more details).

C. Ties

1. Ties Broken

A tie for any place will be broken by ranking the contestants according to their overall scores in the Singing category or, only if that does not break the tie, according to their overall scores in the Performance category. If a tie still exists, the tie will stand.

2. Medals

When a tie occurs, any medal(s) specified in Article V that immediately follow(s) the tie ranking will not be awarded e.g. With a tie for 2nd, medals are awarded to 1, 2, 2.

D. Ineligibility/Disqualification

1. Re-ranking

In the event a contestant is declared ineligible or disqualified for any rule violation after the results are announced or published, their rank order shall be filled by the next ranked contestant and a revised official scoring summary will be published accordingly. All remaining lower-ranked contestants will have their rank order adjusted accordingly.

2. Return and Redistribution of Medals and Awards

If the disqualified or ineligible contestant was given a medal or other award as one of the top-ranked competitors in a contest, all members of the disqualified quartet or chorus must return the awards to BHNZ for award to the appropriate contestant.

ARTICLE VIII: ORDER OF APPEARANCE

A. Contestants' Order of Appearance (OOA)

1. Draw for Singing Order; Excused Absence

The order of appearance will be assigned by random draw. Contestants will sing in the order in which their names are drawn. However, the Administration judge or the BHNZ C & J Chairperson may excuse an appearance other than in assigned order if necessitated by circumstances beyond the control of the contestant.

a. During contest: The Administration judge will determine whether to give an excused contestant the opportunity to appear after all other contestants in that contest session.

b. Prior to the contest: The BHNZ C & J Chairperson may equitably determine a modification to the order of appearance for reasons beyond the control of the contestants.

B. Unexcused Absence

Any contestant, not excused, that fails to perform in its assigned order of appearance will be penalized. The Administration judge will assess a penalty of five points per scoring judge. A penalised contestant will have the opportunity to appear after all other contestants in that contest session.

C. OOA In Case of Absences by Multiple Contestants

If there are two or more excused or penalized contestants, their order of appearance will be determined by the Administration judge.

D. Failure to Appear During Round

Any contestant that fails to appear in any round will not be eligible to compete in any subsequent round in that contest.

E. Request to Sing First in the BHNZ Chorus Contest

1. Written Request Prior To Draw

A chorus participating in the chorus contest may request in writing to the BHNZ C & J Chairperson that it be permitted to sing at the beginning of the contest. Such a request must be made and received prior to the draw being made.

2. Multiple Requests

If more than one chorus requests to sing at the beginning of the contest, an initial drawing will be held among those choruses to determine the order in which those choruses will sing at the beginning of the contest.

ARTICLE IX: SONGS AND ARRANGEMENTS

A. Songs

1. Barbershop Style

All songs performed in contest must be arranged in the barbershop style. [See style definition in Chapter 2 of the BHS Contest and Judging Handbook.] A song performed in contest must be in good taste, be neither primarily patriotic nor primarily religious in intent, and have a melody and harmony consistent with the barbershop style.

a. Jurisdiction, Adjudication and Penalties: Songs not consistent with the barbershop style will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Musicality judge(s). Actions by any contestant that are not in good taste will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Performance judge(s). Violation of the provision relating to patriotic or religious intent will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Performance judges(s) only.

2. Unaccompanied

Songs must be sung without any kind of musical accompaniment and without instrumental introduction, interlude, or conclusion. The latter provision applies to both the entire performance and each individual song. Violation of this provision will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Musicality judges(s).

3. Chorus Subunits

In chorus contest performances of songs, selected use of a soloist, duet, trio or quartet is acceptable as long as it is brief and appropriate. At no time should the musical texture exceed four parts. The spoken word, brief and appropriate, is not considered an additional “part” in this context. Compliance with this provision will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Musicality judge(s).

B. Copyright Compliance

Contestants must comply with the copyright law in the acquisition, arranging and learning, of songs for contest. Violations of this article relating to copyright law compliance are subject to post-contest action deemed appropriate by the BHNZ C & J Chairperson.

ARTICLE X: SOUND EQUIPMENT AND STAGE SETTING

A. Equipment

1. Provision and Operation; Monitor Speakers Permitted

The best possible sound equipment will be provided, if needed, by hosts of convention/contests. Monitor speakers are permitted. Sound equipment should be operated by a competent operator.

2. Testing and Approval

The stage setting will be set up sufficiently in advance of the starting time of the contest so that the sound equipment and lighting may be tested under the supervision of the Administration judge. The contest will not start until the Administration judge has given their approval.

B. Restrictions and Exception

1. Own Equipment

Contestants may not use their own equipment to electronically amplify or alter their voices.

2. Offstage Use of House System

Contestants may not make offstage use of the house sound system.

3. Recorded Music or Spoken Word; Electronic Enhancement

Nothing in this rule shall be interpreted to permit the use of recorded music (including singing) and/or recordings of the spoken word. Nothing in this rule shall be interpreted to permit the use of technology to enhance the performance electronically.

4. Electronic Pitch and Brief Effects

Contestants may use electronic means independent of the house system to take pitch or to provide limited, brief, and relevant sound effects.

C. Jurisdiction and Penalties

Violations of Article X are subject to penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Singing judges(s).

ARTICLE XI: STAGING

A. Restrictions

1. Non-Members

Persons who are not members of the competing chorus or quartet may not appear on stage during the performance. Violation of this rule in contest will result in being declared ineligible and disqualified. (See Article I for membership eligibility/violations.)

2. Bad Taste

Actions by any contestant that are deemed suggestive, vulgar, or otherwise not in good taste will not be allowed. In addition to adjudication by the Performance judge(s), the performance may be stopped by the Administration judge per Article XIV. A. 1. c.

B. Jurisdiction and Adjudication

The Performance judge(s) will have jurisdiction over issues of staging. (See the Performance category description in the Contest and Judging Handbook for a discussion of unacceptable staging.)

Actions by any contestant that are not in good taste will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Performance judge(s).

C. BHNZ Chorus Contest

1. Props

- a. Restrictions: If props and/or stage enhancements are to be used, they must be simple enough that at most two

people can carry and set them up, and they must be freestanding.

(1) Nothing can be attached to or leaned against the riser (back) safety rails.

(2) No extensions to the end risers are permitted.

(3) At no time are competitors allowed behind the risers.

(4) No props or stage enhancements can be used that may contravene local fire and safety codes (open flame, fireworks, open water other than in a glass or pitcher, etc.)

b. Penalty: Violations of the preceding will result in a penalty of five points per song per scoring judge (150 points from the composite score earned by the performance). The stage crew, with the concurrence of the panel Chairperson, will make this determination.

c. Financial liability

(1) Any use of props and/or stage enhancements that damages microphones and/or lights will result in the chorus or quartet being held financially responsible to BHNZ for the replacement in kind of the damaged equipment.

(2) Any use of props and/or stage enhancements that results in alteration to the condition of the stage and/or house and requires additional labour to rectify the stage and/or house to its pre-performance condition will result in the chorus or quartet being held financially responsible to BHNZ for the total cost of the labour incurred.

2. Clean-up

a. Restrictions: Confetti and similar small material that requires extensive clean-up is banned from use in both chorus and quartet contests. Other materials which are difficult to clean-up (requiring mops, brooms, vacuum cleaners, etc.) are strongly discouraged from the stage.

b. Penalty: Any clean-up longer than 60 seconds will result in a penalty of five points per song per scoring judge (60 points from the composite score earned by the performance). This does not include the pick-up of coats, tables, vests, etc., that do not require further cleaning. Time will begin from the start of the clean-up effort and kept by the stage crew, with the concurrence of the panel Chairperson. At no time are competitors allowed behind the risers during clean-up.

ARTICLE XII: NON-SINGING COMMENT/DIALOGUE

A. Spoken comments

Non-singing dialogue is generally not a part of a contest performance. However, brief comments made with supporting visual communications may be permitted more clearly to establish mood/theme, to assist the transition of packaged songs, or to add to the effect of closure of mood/theme.

B. Adjudication

Spoken words deemed to be excessive or detrimental to the performance shall be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Performance judge(s).

ARTICLE XIII: PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES

A. Forfeiture

A scoring judge indicates forfeiture by awarding a score of zero. Forfeiture or any penalty is appropriate only when specifically provided for in these rules.

B. Inclusion in Official Scoring Summary

Penalties and forfeitures will be published as part of the official scoring summary, with citation of the rule that was violated, if appropriate.

C. No Public Announcement

There will be no public announcement of any penalty or forfeiture.

ARTICLE XIV: OPERATION OF CONTEST

A. Administration Judge

1. Responsibility and Authority

a. Authority for Contest Operation: Once the contest begins, and until the contest results are determined, the Administration judge is completely in charge of the operation of the contest.

b. Contest Environment: The Administration judge is responsible for ensuring that the contest environment is as fair and consistent as possible for all contestants. Action on environmental issues will consider contestants, audience, and panel, in that order of priority.

c. Stopping Performance and Rescheduling

(1) Sole Authority: The Administration judge alone has the authority to stop the performance and judging and reschedule part or all of the performance later in the contest.

(2) Repeat Performance: At their sole discretion, the Administration judge may allow a contestant to repeat part or all of a performance later in the contest.

(3) Cancellation and Rescheduling: If the Administration judge must cancel a round or an entire contest, that round and/or contest will be rescheduled by the Administration judge in conjunction with the appropriate administrative body supervising the contest. In making these decisions, the Administration judge will consult with scoring judges as appropriate.

B. Announcements

Announcement of the results of the contest will be the responsibility of the Administration judge and the BHNZ Contest & Judging Committee Chairperson.

APPENDIX A

GUIDELINES FOR VIDEO ASSESSMENT TO QUALIFY FOR THE BHNZ
NATIONAL QUARTET

COMPETITION

1. Deadline - All videos for assessment must be submitted to the Contest & Judging Committee designee specified below in accordance with Article II.B.1.b of the BHNZ Contest Rules. The recording should be recent and, preferably, made within the video submission timeframe as defined in Article II.B.1.b. Exceptions and/or late submissions will be at the discretion of the C & J Chairperson.

2. Requirements

- a. The recording is to be made in front of a live audience. It may be done at a regular chorus rehearsal night or any suitable gathering.
- b. The performance shall include an emcee introduction, a walk on, the performance of two songs and a walk off.
- c. To ensure an accurate assessment, it is in the competitor's interest to provide a video of the highest quality possible. It is suggested that:
 - (1) The camera be mounted on a tripod – no panning, zooming or other effects
 - (2) That a neutral background be used with good lighting
 - (3) A good quality, stand-mounted microphone be used in lieu of the built-in camera mic
 - (4) The equipment be tested prior to recording the performance to be assessed
- d. Only one take is permitted for each quartet (as would be the case in actual competition).
- e. Video submissions are to be sent to the Contest & Judging Committee's designee listed below. The recorded performance may either be submitted by email in a suitable computer viewable format (e.g. MP4, MOV or WAV) or uploaded to YouTube with accessible links provided. Videos submitted are to be made without enhancement of any kind.
- f. The written note/email accompanying the recording must include the quartet name and list quartet members by part.

3. Costs - All costs associated with this process are the responsibility of the quartet.

4. Submission details are to be sent to:

Contest and Judging Team Representative
Will Lynch
will.lynch64@gmail.com
021 072 4969